THE OREDIGGER

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An Astro-logical Play

CSM Senior Design Group Plans for New Field

Melinda Bartel
Staff Writer

Although rumors abound that a new football stadium is in the works, no clear plans have been made. According to Director of Athletics Tom Spicer, a new astro-turf football field is going to be built where the practice fields are right now. Eventually, they may build a stadium around the new field.

For the time being, however, games would still be held in Brooks stadium, even after the new field is constructed. When built, it would solely be for the players to practice on. Hopefully, its construction will start this spring or next fall.

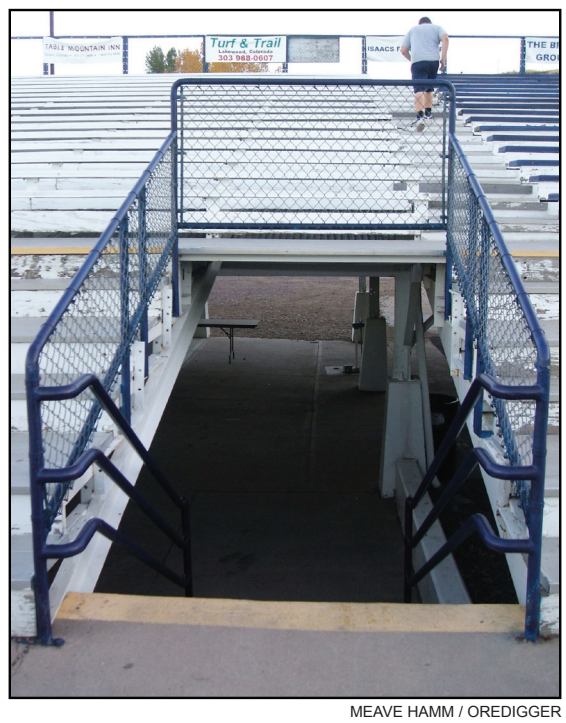
Spicer admits that there are a lot of people interested in a new stadium, but there are no official plans to build one. He said that their first priorities are to build a new soccer pitch, track, and football field, *not* a stadium. "There is a lot of talk, a lot of energy, and a lot of interest. But officially, in this point of time, we have not finalized or addressed the issue of a new stadium," said Spicer.

There are six Mines students working on the new field for their Senior Design Project. They are the third group to take on the project. However, according to the group, they are renovating the current stadium, not building a new one by the practice fields.

Drew Ferren, a senior on the design team, said that a stadium on the practice field is an old idea that they lost interest in because it would cost too much money.

The Senior Design team's plans for the stadium include a field with artificial turf, new stands (capacity of 4000), a press box, a president's suite (that will hold 35 guests and include a bar), new lights, and taking out the track. The fake turf will allow the team to both practice and play games in the stadium. They are also thinking about private football meeting rooms and a personal football weight room. But those are secondary objectives.

The group has a ten million dollar budget, and they're planning to stay within it. Vince Dorzweiler, another senior on the design project, said that their proposal will be done by the end of the semester. If accepted, it would be built within five years. Ferren said that when the team presented their project in front of Spicer, they were cut off and shot down a lot. However, he was under the impression that their general ideas are still a go.



MEAVE HAMM / OREDIGGER

Under the Bleachers: An entryway into the underbelly of the current Brooks Field.

The Mines head football coach, Bob Stitt, said that he is one of the least informed and that he hasn't been approached about the new field. He doesn't know when or where the construction is being planned. However, he said he would hope to be involved in the future because he knows what the team needs. "The football team would benefit immensely from a facility that is ours. But a new stadium with no offices doesn't really fix anything," said Stitt.

Currently, the team struggles with finding adequate meeting places (they usually meet in Coolbaugh), and it's also hard for Stitt to hold coaches meetings. They need a place where they can draw up game plans and have film study without being interrupted. "The stadium would really help us with our every day operation" said Stitt.

The football field itself is also in desperate need of renovation. There is a four to five foot difference from the center of the field to the sideline. Field turf (as opposed to natural grass) would help in practice because it handles rain well. As of now, the team practically plays on dirt, and if it rains it makes playing almost impossible. "The idea of a new field has been bounced around since 2004, but I don't really have a clue what is going on with official plans," said Stitt.

"When I was recruited I was promised a rubber field. It would be really nice to play on," said Sophomore football player Robbin Vinnola.

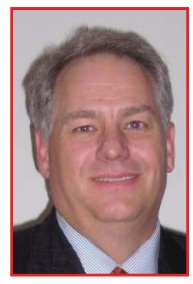
MEAVE HAMM / OREDIGGER

Leadership Forum

Panelists Field Questions on Success

Robert Carlson
BSc Mech Eng '96
Director Finance and Treasury
CoorsTek, Inc.

Sandy Stash
BSc Pet Eng '81
Vice President, Regulatory Affairs and Compliance
BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc.



Bruce D. Hansen
BSc Min Eng '80
Chief Executive Officer, Director
General Moly, Inc.

Tim Marquez
BSc Pet Eng '80
Founder, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board
Venoco, Inc.

Greg Smith
Staff Writer

The Executive Panel of the Colorado School of Mines will host a "question and answer session" with four CSM Alumni who are now industry executives. Current and former students are encouraged to attend and learn from these leaders.

The panelists are Tim Marquez, Founder, CEO and Chairman of Venoco, Inc. Robert Carlson, Director of Finance and Treasury, CoorsTek, Inc. Bruce D. Hansen, CEO and Director of General Moly, Inc., and Sandy Stash, Vice President, Regulatory Affairs and Compliance, BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc.

They will be discussing what has influenced them personally. They will have advice for students and alumni alike. The panelists will also share the highlights of their careers after Mines to where they are today.

In a pre-panel question submitted to the speakers, Serena Aernie of the Alumni Association asked, "What aspects of your personality contributed most to your success as a leader, and were those qualities instilled or are they inherent?"

Tim Marquez said, "The first two personality factors that most contributed to my success as a leader are my tenacity and my drive to excel. I think my tenacity was both instilled and inherent. I was born into a family of hard-headed people, but I have successfully refined this to a higher level. My drive to excel was instilled. There was a time that I accepted mediocrity, but I have come to abhor it and always at least try to excel at everything I do. The third personality factor that has contributed to my success as a leader is my keen wit. However, since most people say that my wit is unrecognizable, maybe we can forget that one."

Robert Carlson answered, "I have found that being a confident, independent thinker has served me well as a leader. While all of us start off with varying levels of these traits, our actions can greatly enhance these skills. If we force ourselves to step out of our comfort zone and continuously challenge ourselves in new ways, we will develop the breadth of knowledge required to be an independent thinker and we will build confidence from succeeding in these new challenges."

The panel discussion will take place on November 7th in Metals Hall with refreshments at 6:30 P.M. and the question and answer session beginning at 7:00 P.M. Students are asked to RSVP due to limited seating. Questions for the panelists should be sent in advance to Alison.Wheelock@is.mines.edu or 303-273-3295. Hope to see you there!

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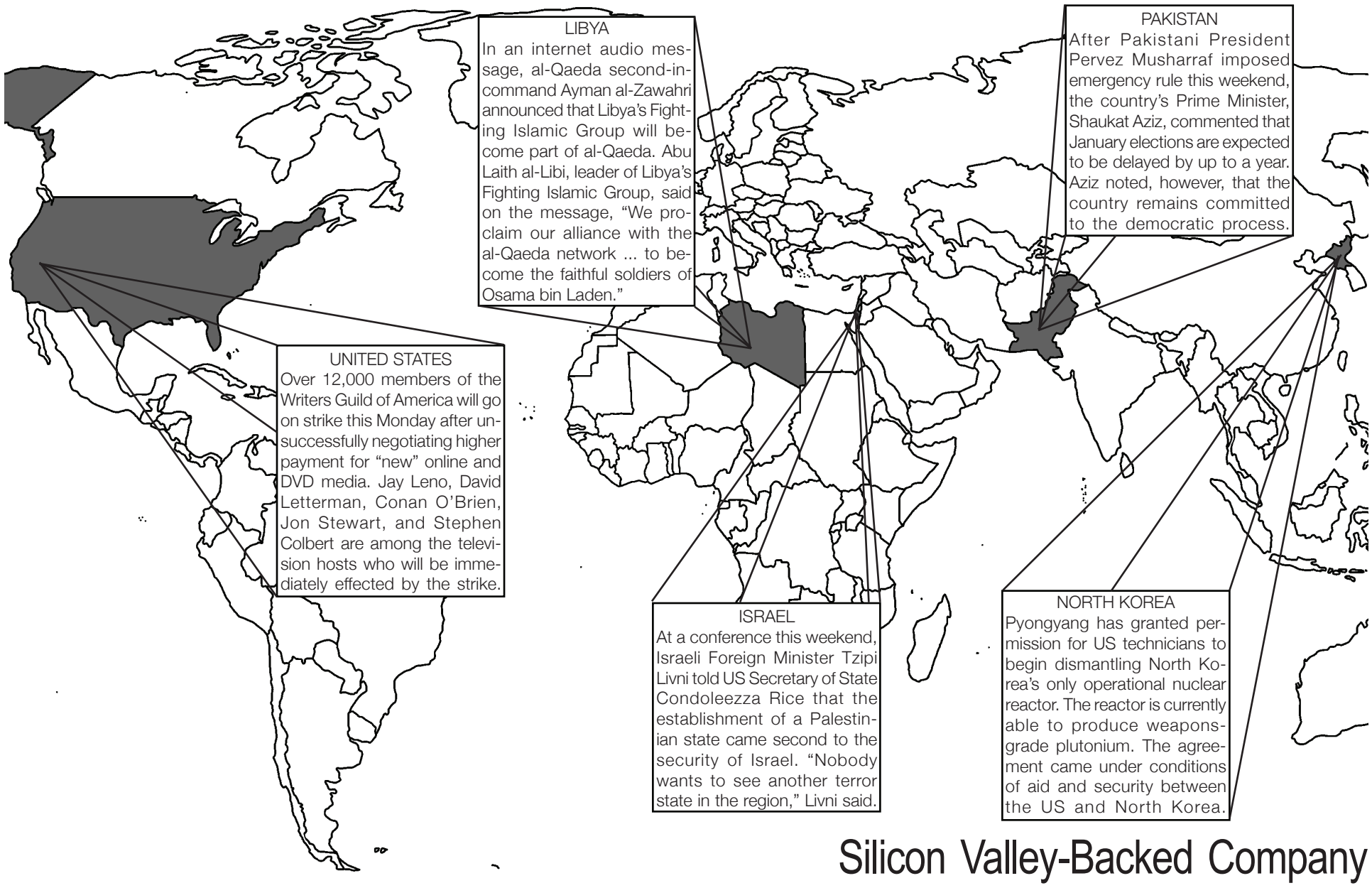
World News in Brief

Zach Aman, Editor-in-Chief



King of the Aluminum Hill

Castle of Cans Event at Colorado School of Mines

Greg Smith
Staff Writer

The third annual Castle of Cans contest is approaching soon! Castle of Cans is a charitable food drive where teams build big structures out of canned food. The structures are judged on weight, in addition to overall appearance. The food from the drive will go to the local community as well as other families from Colorado.

This year's Castle of Cans will be held in Ballrooms ABC on November 16th from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sigma Lambda took the gold last year, but the contest is up for grabs. The winners will both have the gratification of helping families in need, as well as bragging rights for another year. For more information or to sign up your team, contact Dustin Haynie. (dhaynie@mines.edu)

COURTESY SIGMA LAMBDA / COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES

Constructive Thinking: Mines students gather once per year to build a creative structure out of cans that are donated to charitable causes.

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Silicon Valley-Backed Company Building Georgia Ethanol Plant

Roger Fillion
Rocky Mountain News; AP

BROOMFIELD, Colo. – An upstart Broomfield company is set to break ground in rural Georgia on what's billed as the world's first wood-based commercial ethanol plant.

Range Fuels' refinery will rely on Georgia pine trees and forest waste that would otherwise be burned or left to rot. Silicon Valley money and Uncle Sam are bankrolling the plant, to be located in Treutlen County, about 155 miles southeast of Atlanta.

A groundbreaking is set for Tuesday. The refinery will use pine trees, limbs, bark and needles as well as leftover waste from timber mills to produce a cellulose-based ethanol.

Unlike corn ethanol, cellulose-based fuel relies on wood, grass, hog manure and other organic matter.

"This could be the beginning of changing our reliance on fossil fuels for transportation energy," said Range Fuels CEO Mitch Mandich. "We're setting out to prove it can be done and be commercially viable."

When fully built, the plant is designed to produce more than 100 million gallons of ethanol a year using a proprietary technology. Mandich said it will cost "several hundred million" dollars.

The plant's first phase of construction is slated for completion at the end of 2008. The initial facility is engineered to produce 20 million gallons a year.

"It's great to see it coming out to the marketplace," said Jim McMillan, an engineer who helps manage biofuels research and development at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden.

Unlike corn ethanol, cellulose-based ethanol doesn't rely on a food source or farmland for its feedstock. Ethanol demand has sent corn prices skyrocketing, pushing up costs for meat suppliers and consumers.

"You're not competing directly in the food market," McMillan said.

He also noted that cellulose-based ethanol requires less fossil fuel inputs in the way of natural gas and coal.

Founded in 2006, Range Fuels is backed by Sun Microsystems co-founder Vinod Khosla and federal dollars. In February, the company received $76 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Energy.

Range Fuels was one of six cellulose-based ethanol companies to receive DOE funding totaling $385 million. Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman said at the time the companies' plants "will play a critical role in helping to bring cellulosic ethanol to market and teaching us how we can produce it in a more cost effective manner."

When fully operational, the Range Fuels refinery is expected to employ 60 to 70.

"We plan on building multiple plants and rolling out this technology swiftly," said Mandich, the CEO.

More than 6 billion gallons of ethanol were produced in the United States last year. Nearly all that fuel was derived from corn.

Experts say cellulose-based ethanol is more efficient than corn ethanol. They cite data showing that each unit of fossil fuel used to make corn ethanol produces about 1.3 to 1.4 units of ethanol-based fuel.

Mandich cited government data showing that in the case of cellulose-based ethanol, the ratio is one unit of fossil fuel input for every 10 units of ethanol output.

Result of Writers' Battle

DVD, Internet Profits Also Likely to Impact Actors, Directors

Gary Gentile
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES – Hollywood writers were back at the bargaining table Sunday in a last-minute push to avoid a strike against TV networks and movie studios over writers' share of profits from DVDs and the Internet.

The battle has broad implications for the way Hollywood does business, since whatever deal is struck by the Writers Guild of America will likely be used as a template for talks with actors and directors, whose contracts expire next June.

"We'll get what they get," Screen Actors Guild President Alan Rosenberg told The Associated Press.

Negotiators were meeting with a federal mediator Sunday evening in hopes of avoiding a strike that writers had set to begin 12:01 a.m. Monday.

The guild announced sweeping plans to picket every major studio in Los Angeles starting at 9 a.m. Monday, along with Rockefeller Center in New York, where NBC is headquartered.

The Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers previously called a writers' strike "precipitous and irresponsible."

Producers believe progress can be made on other issues but "it makes absolutely no sense to increase the burden of this additional compensation," said J. Nicholas Counter, the producer's chief negotiator.

The guilds have been preparing for these negotiations for years, hiring staff with extensive labor union experience, and developing joint strategies and a harder line than producers have seen in decades.

"We haven't shown particular resolve in past negotiations," said John Bowman, the WGA's chief negotiator. "The sea change is that this is an enormously galvanizing issue, and two, that the new regime at the guild actually has a plan, has an organization and a structure to respond to something."

The writers are the first union to bargain for a new deal this year. Their contract expired Wednesday.

In past years, actors have almost always gone first, although the Directors Guild of America, which is seen as the least aggressive of the three guilds, has sometimes taken the lead. Whatever deal was struck first was usually accepted by the others.

The guilds are aware that if writers fail to win concessions involving DVDs and the Internet, actors may have to take up the fight.

"This is an issue that touches every member of this guild and every member of the Screen Actors Guild as well," said Carlton Cuse, executive producer of the ABC drama "Lost."

Consumers are expected to spend $16.4 billion on DVDs this year, according to Adams Media Research. By contrast, studios could generate only $158 million from selling movies online and about $194 million from selling TV shows over the Web, although those numbers are expected to skyrocket in coming years.

Studios argue that it is too early to know how much money they can make from offering entertainment on the Internet, cell phones, iPods and other devices.

Hollywood unions have long regretted a decision made in 1984 to accept a small percentage of home video sales because studios said the technology was untested and that costs were high. Writers only get about 3 cents on a typical DVD retailing for $20.

The guilds have tried and failed for two decades to increase video payments, even as DVDs have become more profitable for studios than box office receipts.

Unions say they won't make the same mistake when it comes to the Internet.

"I think we all understand what a crucial time in history this is," Rosenberg said. "We really feel if we can't get a fair formula in new media, we'll dig ourselves into the same type of hole we've been in with DVDs."

The first casualty of the strike would be late-night talk shows, which are dependent on current events to fuel monologues and other entertainment. Daytime TV, including live talk shows such as "The View" and soap operas, which typically tape about a week's worth of shows in advance, would be next to feel the impact.

The strike would not immediately impact production of movies or prime-time TV programs. Most studios have stockpiled dozens of movie scripts, and TV shows have enough scripts or completed shows in hand to last until early next year.

The actors' union has urged its members to join the writers' picket lines during their off hours.

If a writers strike lingers and actors show support, producers could try and undermine the writers' position by seeking a more favorable deal with directors.

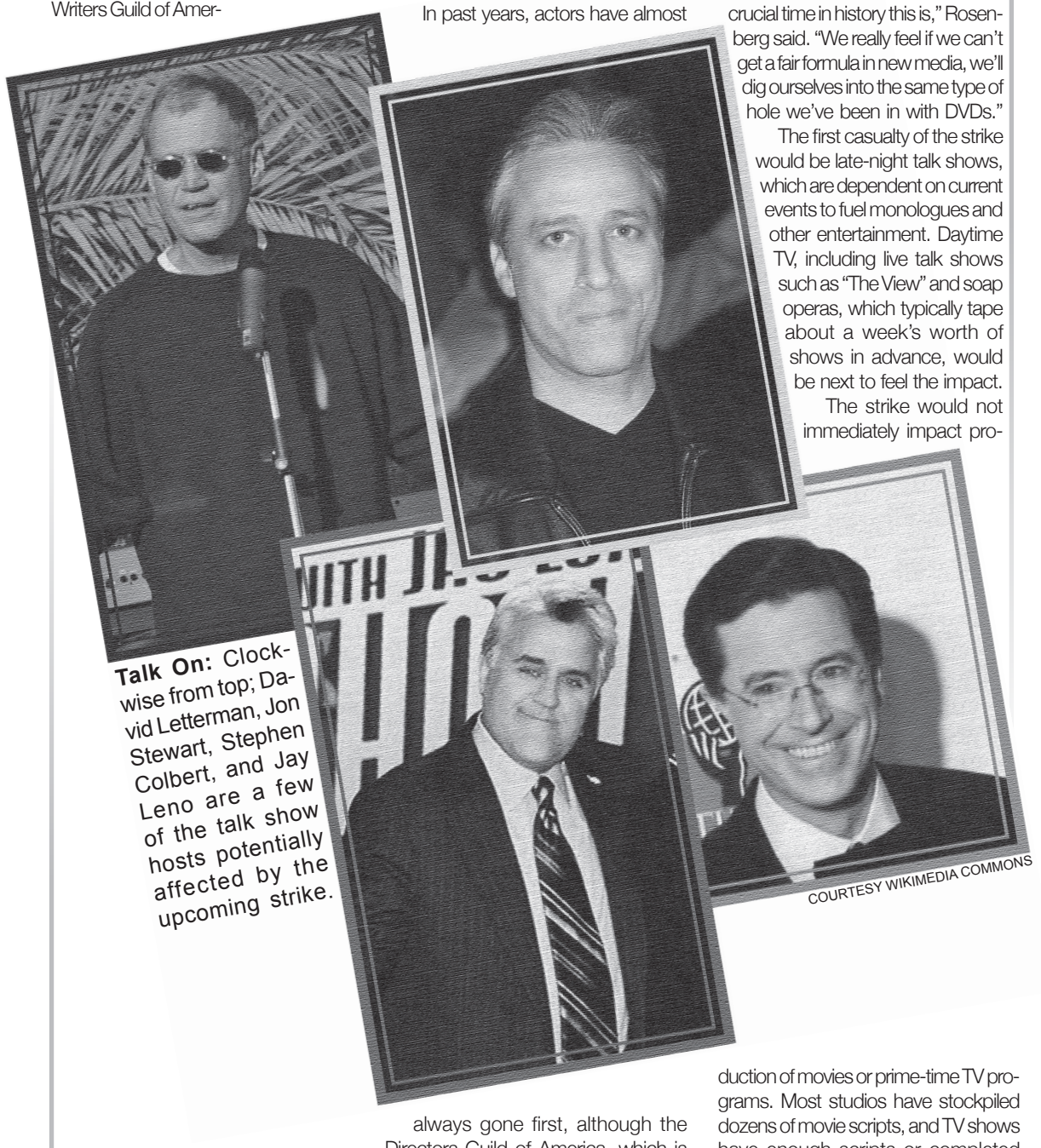
Writers and directors have clashed in the past, mostly over writers' feelings that directors take too much credit for a movie and neglect the contribution of writers.

In 2004, the directors' union settled its contract first and backed down from demands for a higher share of profit from the lucrative DVD marketplace. Writers and actors then had little choice but to accept a similar deal.

"This is a bare knuckle fight and a chess game," said Jonathan Handel, an entertainment lawyer at the Los Angeles law firm of TroyGould.

"If producers do reach a deal with the DGA, it would be to cut the legs right out from under the strike. Then the focus shifts to SAG."

The DGA said it has not yet scheduled contract talks but was closely monitoring developments.



Talk On: Clockwise from top; David Letterman, Jon Stewart, Stephen Colbert, and Jay Leno are a few of the talk show hosts potentially affected by the upcoming strike.

COURTESY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Widespread Problems Reported in Mental Health Centers

Associated Press

WHEAT RIDGE, Colo. – A state employee at one of the Colorado's 24 group homes for the developmentally disabled has been arrested for allegedly abusing patients.

Krista Jacobsen is accused of locking patients behind closed doors at Depew House, a charge she denies.

"It was completely inappropriate," Dr. Sharon Jacksi, who oversees the group homes, told KCNC TV. Jacksi said Jacobsen was fired after the accusations surfaced.

Locking patients behind closed doors "would definitely be considered abuse," Jacksi said. Jacobsen is charged with neglect of an at-risk adult, a misdemeanor.

KCNC said it interviewed other employees at the center and was told Jacobsen, a licensed psychiatric technician, had told them it was acceptable to lock the patients in rooms which contained a couch, toys and a television.

Amanda Houghtailing, admitted to the practice when interviewed by police, saying, "At first I thought it was okay, but then in the back of my mind I knew it was wrong." Among the patients locked up was one who was supposed to be observed constantly because he had a tendency to "self-injurious" behavior.

> "A state inspection found eight residents soaked in their own urine at one home in March."

KCNC said it also found problems at other homes after reviewing hundreds of pages of reports and looking at the results of investigations.

A state inspection found eight residents soaked in their own urine at one home in March. Inspectors from the state health department found that employees at one center were hiding toys and other items belonging to one patient, causing her extreme anguish.

"We are concerned we do have these instances and are looking at how to improve the services," Jacksi said.

The investigation also found that many workers who were supposed to be monitoring at-risk patients were caught asleep on the job.

At Caltech, Students Forgo Rocket Science for a Day to Pick Olives

Associated Press

PASADENA, Calif. – Students at the California Institute of Technology campus were able to forget rocket science for a day and harvest olives instead.

Students and faculty put away their laptops Friday to climb 16-foot-high ladders, perch in cherry pickers and grab the black and green fruit that would otherwise stain the university's walkways.

Their goal is to make some 1,200 bottles of olive oil to raise money for scholarships, staff bonuses and student activities.

> "Most of the olives that students and faculty plucked were being turned over to the Santa Barbara Olive Co., where they will be professionally pressed and bottled."

"It's not really just about the olives. It's about everyone working together," said freshman math major Tim Black of Wisconsin, who was one of more than 500 people picking olives.

Olive picking became a fall event at the campus more famous for producing math geniuses and rocket scientists after two students began plucking campus trees as a joke last year.

President Jean-Lou Chameau, who saw them, told biology major Ricky Jones and physics major Dvin Adalian he would prepare them a home-cooked meal if they could figure out how to turn the olives into olive oil.

They met the challenge using blenders, concrete blocks, window screens and a centrifuge.

Their efforts garnered so much attention that Caltech decided to create a full-blown harvest festival this year.

Most of the olives that students and faculty plucked were being turned over to the Santa Barbara Olive Co., where they will be professionally pressed and bottled.

But Jones, 22, and Adalian, 20, kept their hand in, designing and helping build a human-powered crusher that rolled two one-ton metal wheels over some of the olives, which were then wrapped in cloth, placed in a press and squeezed into a bin.

GOT POLITICS?

ZACH AMAN / OREDIGGER

REPUBLICANS

Steven Easter
Staff Writer

Although many may not know it, there is indeed a place for Republicans to come and represent their beliefs. The CSM Republicans club meets every Monday at noon in Hill Hall room 209. They represent the Republican Party for the Colorado School of Mines.

Meetings are currently small. As more people come, Interim Chair Kevin Allen will have an agenda for the start of the meeting and then will let the meeting flow into a more open forum and discussion.

"We emphasize participation in politics for young people because after we graduate, and even now, we are the future of this country, and we don't want it falling into the wrong hands – participation and change through education," Allen responded when asked about the role of the club on campus and in the community.

A Civil Campus Debate is scheduled on campus for November 6th. All three political clubs on campus will participate: Democrats, Republicans, and Libertarians. The Civil Campus Debate committee agreed on four main topics: Education, Religion and Politics, Energy and Sustainability, and the War on Drugs.

Of these, the club's main concerns are Energy Independence and upholding the constitution with the founder's intentions on religious issues. Though the Republicans also "want to discuss the failing healthcare system, the dwindling social security funds, and the economics of the [country's] deficit," said Allen.

Their CSM Republicans Facebook group has only 6 members. Most of the campus is unaware or simply does not care that a Republican group exists, said Allen. There is a Mines Republicans and Conservatives Facebook group which has about 50 members.

A search on Facebook returned 425 profiles of people who are Undergrad, Conservative, age 18 to 25, and part of the Mines Network. Changing "Conservative" to "Very Conservative," with other search criteria remaining the same, returned another 50 profiles. Yet attendance remains limited.

"It's sad, but a harsh reality," said Allen about the lack of support. "Mines is such an intense school, there isn't time for the world outside, and politics, in all its partisanship, suffers the most."

It is easy to say that you are too busy because of Mines, but it doesn't actually take much effort to voice your opinions, especially strong ones. Most people would probably agree that everything, like college, is easier when you already know and understand the subject.

To get more participation in CSM Republicans, Allen posted fliers for the club and the debate "in hopes that our message that night will draw people in."

The Civil Campus Debate will take place November 6th from 7 to 8:30 P.M. in the Student Center ballrooms D & E. The debate is open to the public and will run more like an information session than a debate. All thee political parties hope not to convince each other of their stance, but to present their party's politics in a logical fashion for the student body in attendance. There will be free drinks and lots of information, so bring a friend and do attend!

LIBERTARIANS

Ricky Walker
Staff Writer

"[The Libertarian Party] sows the seeds of change in my opinion." These were the words that came from Lauren Garrett, the president of the Libertarian Party at CSM, when asked about how her party is important to a typical CSM student. Contrary to what many people think, the Colorado School of Mines has an active Libertarian Party that meets weekly on campus.

The largest misconception that people have about Libertarians is that they are the same as the Green Party. While they are both "third parties," the ideals and opinions of the two parties could hardly be more different.

The main things that Libertarians stress, according to Garrett, are economics and civil liberties. The basis of their opinions are those of self-government and the ideals of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

However, while the Libertarian Party has a common base, there are many split opinions because of individual ideology. Items such as the environment, abortion, and global warming are not defined platforms in the party.

However, while these issues can be split based on who you talk to, there are some current issues that have well defined platforms. One of the largest issues today that the Libertarians have a common view about is government health care. Because of their ideals of limited government and fiscal responsibility, the Libertarian party is completely against this.

In addition to that, Libertarians are generally against the war in Iraq. While Garrett stated that saying Libertarians were against the war was a "gross generalization," the position of the platform is that the war was unconstitutional.

So why should you, a typical CSM student, be interested in attending the meetings of the Libertarian group on campus? When asked this question, Garrett responded, "The big thing that turns me to Libertarianism is that it avoids the lesser of two evils."

The meetings of the Libertarian group are structured as a discussion groups, and are very informal. "We will talk about anything from anything from economics to our beef with physics. It is very informal," said Garrett.

Depending on the funding, the group will also have occasional dinners or go to Woody's, however as of right now they are not funded by ASCSM. The Libertarian group meets every Monday at 7:00 in the student center just outside of the bookstore. It is open to all who want to spend an evening talking about politics.

DEMOCRATS

Steven Easter
Staff Writer

The few, the opinionated, the well-represented Democrats of Colorado School of Mines held a meeting with milk and cookies a few weeks ago in the Arthur Lakes Library. They have a meeting every Tuesday at 7pm in the Library's Boettcher Room.

The CSM College Democrats openly discuss topics of personal interest, usually related to politics. The president, LB Williams, covers the slated topics and maintains order throughout each meeting.

The topics broached at their past meetings included a move to elect a new Vice President for their organization. Members also tried to brainstorm ideas for buttons to sell as a fundraiser.

The club plans on creating a notebook to store in the library and for check out. The notebook will contain different newspaper clippings and any other information people want to share.

Group members are also considering a statement of purpose for the CSM College Democrats, as a whole. Their current quote, printed on their flyers, states: "Be a Responsible American = Be Involved."

Many members are looking forward to a debate, in which the three parties on campus (Democrat, Republican, and Libertarian) will participate. The debate is scheduled on campus for November 6th at 7pm. The club discussed various topics they would like to see at the debate, from religion and politics, foreign policy, and energy, to outsourcing trade. After a meeting held by all three parties, they decided the four main topics will be: Education, the Role of Religion in Politics, Energy and Sustainability, and finally The War on Drugs. If time permits, they will discuss Civil Liberties and Healthcare.

Donkey Radio, the group's show on Mines Internet Radio, airs every Sunday from 3-5pm. They play political music from past times, talk about current topics, and discuss issues on the air as well as host guest political speakers. They try to have questions or comments from listeners during airtime.

On their Facebook page, the CSM College Democrats describe themselves as an "organization [that] is a collection of students at Mines that believe in America and all it stands for and wish to make this country stronger and better by making it better for all people now and in the future." Their description finishes with a quote from Martin Luther King, Jr.: "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

DON'T FORGET!
IT'S POLITICAL AWARENESS WEEK

The Civil Campus Debate will take place November 6th from 7 to 8:30 P.M. in the Student Center Ballrooms D & E. All three parties will participate.

Geek of the Week

...Colby Childress, Grad Student: Physics

Satira Tajdin-Labib
Staff Writer

[Oredigger] When did you first realize you were a geek?
[Childress] Well, I knew I wanted to be a physicist since I was four years old. During high school I realized I had never been grounded. So I asked my mom why she never grounded me and she told me, "Well, you've always been a loser so what were we going to do? Ground you from your school books?"

What makes you a geek?
A lot of things. I was Geek of the Week when I was an undergraduate. It was because I got into a fist fight with my friend about how to properly spell Klingon in English. I own about one to two thousand Dungeons and Dragons rule books. And, I'm in the physics department. Those three things are pretty big.

What are your passions in life?
A couple of things. My alternate to Mines was to go to music college. I've played the double bass since I was 12. Before I got really busy with school, I was involved with many of the music groups on campus. I play a whole lot of "Team Fortress" and "Lineage 2" which me and a bunch of my friends play fanatically. I like learning things, too. That's why I chose physics; it provides the best opportunities to learn new things. I read a lot too; I try to get 1000 pages in every week.

Windows or Mac?
Windows, because I actually like to use my computer. I do a lot of data processing at home and play video games a lot. I don't want to have to do them on different computers or, with the case of Mac, not being able to do either of them.

Do you have a geek joke?
A mathematician, physicists, and engineer were asked to prove that all odd numbers are prime. The mathematician goes first and says, "3 is prime, 5 is prime, 7 is prime, 9 is not, therefore not all odd numbers are prime." The physicists says, "3 is, 5 is, 7 is, 9 is approximately prime, 11 is, therefore all odd numbers are prime." The engineer then says, "3 is prime, 5 is prime, 7 is prime, 9 is prime, 11 is, 13 is, 15 is…"

Why did you decide to major in Physics?
As I mentioned before, it started as a child. When I was a little kid, the books I would ask my parents to read to me were always about science. I also knew that I wanted to learn as much as I could and the best way to do that was to be a physicist where I could experience things outside the realm of what I would normally experience.

What is the geekiest thing you've seen at Mines?
Well, I got into a fist fight with my friend Mik because he speaks 2 different Star Trek languages. The argument was about whether High Klingon or Low Klingon was the proper language for a warrior to speak. Also, in the physics department, there's a penthouse in the department, so there are people who will work all night and sleep in the penthouse or the computer lab and then wake up and go to class the next morning.

Where do you want your career path to take you?
I want to get a Ph. D because I really prefer to be a lecturer/professor in Physics. As much as I enjoy research, teaching is just really, really fun for me.

COURTESY COLBY CHILDRESS

Music to Your Ears: Childress plays the double bass.

Fo' Real

Dan in Real Life Awkward, Semi-Romantic

Greg Smith
Staff Writer

Did you like Evan Almighty? Me neither. Well, upon seeing trailers for Steve Carell's latest cinematographic adventure, ***Dan in Real Life***, I said to myself, "There's a movie I'm not going to see." But then I reconsidered and decided I'd give it a try.

It starts off presenting Dan Burns (Steve Carell) as a single dad who, surprise, surprise, has trouble raising his 17, 14, and 9-year-old daughters. They undergo some very cleverly crafted bickers and feuds. Dan is, as Carell seems to be in every movie, a very likeable guy. Why would any trouble befall such a loving, warm man?

> "The entire audience was making yearning 'ohhh' and 'nooo' sounds for a few minutes."

Dan writes a very popular advice column for a major newspaper and syndication is on the horizon. He and his daughters head from New Jersey, where they live, to Dan's parent's house in Rhode Island for a family weekend.

None of the characters in the movie seemed quite as surprised as me to find that one of Dan's brothers is Dane Cook. I was a fan of Dane Cook's original stuff but in the past year or so I have been yawning. He did a surprisingly awesome job in *Mr. Brooks* and *Waiting*, and now in *Dan in Real Life.*

Through a very strange series of events, Dan and his brother Mitch (Cook) fall for the same woman, although it is not the typical Man v. Man to win Woman's affection as the usual romantic comedy, if that's what you want to call this movie.

I have seen a few movies, but this one tops the list for most awkward scene in a movie - ever. The entire audience was making yearning "ohhh" and "nooo" sounds for a few minutes.

The extremely awkward scene is followed very shortly by the end of the movie! I won't ruin it for those of you who wish to see it, but the end is strange, not bad, just different than I expected. Dane Cook's character completely changed in my eyes, for the worse, at the end.

I am actually considering buying the soundtrack for this movie. The songs really increase the amplitude of what the audience is feeling for a character.

Despite the audience being made up of mostly middle- to older-aged women who laugh a lot and men who don't laugh enough, I found myself smiling for the majority of the movie.

My rating: three stars out of five.

★★★☆☆

Decisions, Decisions: How to Choose a Retirement Plan

James Larsen
Guest Columnist

This coming spring, a number of graduating seniors will accept job offers from large corporations. In addition to attractive salary offers, these seniors will also receive benefit packages that provide life and health insurance, disability insurance, and retirement plan opportunities.

These benefits come with several options. The choices you make will depend upon prior experience/education, your current circumstances, such as being single, married or married with a family, having or not having a student loan, and whether or not there is a career/financial plan in place.

In the absence of a financial plan, the toughest choices will be presented in the retirement plan options. In the next few paragraphs, I will share with you my opinions on what choices to make.

First, a word about 401(k) plans, the most common corporate retirement vehicle. Studies confirm what you might guess: most 401(k) plan participants are not adequately knowledgeable about investments to make wise choices. The Department of Labor adopted Regulation 404(c) coincident with the shifting of the fiduciary responsibility from the employer to the participant when making investment choices.

Regulation 404(c) places an educational responsibility on the employer to ensure that plan participants understand the differences in investments and the risk associated with different asset classes. Additionally, beginning in 2008, the government is further addressing the educational responsibility by encouraging the use of "Life-Style" funds.

Life-Style funds are typically funds of funds, such as the Fidelity 2030 Fund. This fund can be chosen by someone planning to retire in the year 2030. It blends together several fidelity funds to provide a relatively aggressive investment profile while there is some distance from the retirement date. As the retirement date approaches, however, the fund progressively shifts to a more conservative profile to preserve gains and have those gains available at retirement.

By targeting the retirement date and investing in "Life-Style" funds, the plan participant gives up some control over the investment choices and may lose an opportunity to remain aggressive,ly invested if that would be a suitable choice.

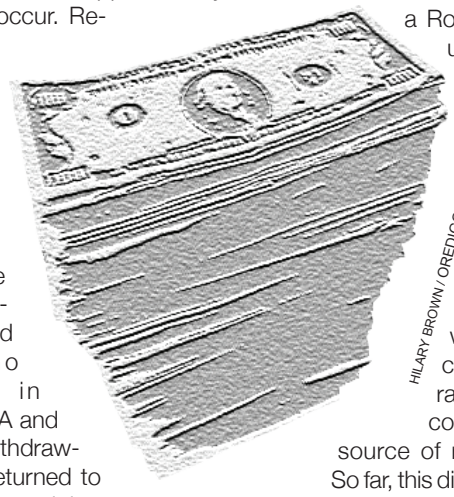
Assuming a typical 401(k) plan is offered, the choice is then how much to invest and what investments to use. The first choice is easily answered: "Take the money and run." A dollar for dollar match of up to 3% of salary is common to many 401(k) plans.

Further matching may take place when the company matches $0.50 for each dollar contributed up to 4 or 5% of salary. This means that the employer may provide 3.5 to 4% of the annual salary as a matching contribution to the 401(k) plan. Consider this free money, and get all you can.

The additional benefit of a 401(k) plan is the salary deferral of the participant's contribution and the tax-deferred growth of all contributions. What's not to like? Well, the often overlooked aspect of 401(k)'s and IRAs is the tax-deferral.

If it is assumed that retirement expenses will decrease with a corresponding decrease in income, then a tax savings may be realized when retirement tax rates are lower than those experienced during employment.

However, the opposite may actually occur. Retirees have more free time and that may mean no change in lifestyle, and thus no change in taxes. IRA and 401(k) withdrawals are returned to the plan participant as ordinary income and are taxed.



HILARY BROWN / OREDIGGER

But there's another choice that should be made. This year, the IRS allowed the addition of Roth accounts in 401(k) plans. They are not exactly like a Roth IRA, but they do offer the potential for some tax-free income in retirement.

With a Roth 401(k) plan, the participant contributes after-tax dollars as with a Roth IRA, *BUT* the employer's contribution is made with pre-tax dollars.

Retirement savings distributed from a Roth 401(k) would actually be a blend of post-tax contributions and earnings (tax-free), and pre-tax employer contributions (tax-deferred). Admittedly, the employer contributions represent a lower proportion of distributed income, but there is still a tax to be paid.

A simpler strategy would be to contribute to the employer's 401(k) plan to maximize the employer contribution, and then open a Roth IRA. In fact, the use of a Roth IRA to provide tax-free income in retirement would be very beneficial if the Roth account and 401(k) account were of equal value at retirement. The effect would be to halve the combined income tax rate, if those two accounts were the only source of retirement income.

So far, this discourse has ignored the realities of life. Every good financial plan includes an emergency reserve for life's little surprises.

Want to use the 401(k) or Roth IRA for an emergency? It's possible, but if you are under 59 ½ years old and have not been contributing to the Roth for 5 years, you will be whacked with an early withdrawal penalty and taxed on the amount of the withdrawal.

What about a loan? 401(k) plans typically include a loan provision and you could take a loan if needed for a qualified reason. You use the loan and then repay yourself by making payments to the 401(k) plan account… with after-tax dollars.

The loan repayment then replaces the earlier contributions and is available for income in retirement.

But wait! Isn't that retirement income taxed? Yes it is, so what you used to repay the loan is subjected to taxation when you earn it and taxation when you withdraw it as retirement income… perfectly legal!

This is where a third account becomes handy. A taxable account, such as a brokerage account or open account with a mutual fund company, provides a source of available funds for emergencies or planned purchases.

Think of a taxable account as the same as a savings account. Every year, the dividends and/or short-term capital gains are reported on 1099 forms and taxes are paid on these earnings. Long-term capital gains are deferred until the money is withdrawn.

At today's rate, the maximum long-term capital gain tax rate is 15%, and the long-term gain is computed as the difference between the value at withdrawal and the cost basis. The cost basis is the initial investment amount, plus the dividends and earnings on which taxes have been paid annually.

There are many strategies for employing all three accounts - the tax-deferred, the tax-free, and the taxable - in retirement to control the overall tax burden. The bottom line is a wealth strategy that addresses the retiree's needs at the least possible cost.

Genre-Bending

Say Anything Blend Indie, Pop *In Defense of the Genre*

Tim Weilert
Staff Writer

The lines between "indie" and "pop" are being blurred; this is most obvious on the new Say Anything two-disc record ***In Defense of The Genre***.

Hailing from L.A., Say Anything has slowly gained popularity since the release of their breakthrough album ***...Is A Real Boy*** in 2004 and are now co-headlining the MySpace.com Music Tour with Hellogoodbye.

The record, heavily influenced by singer Max Bemis's personal experiences, showcases a wide variety of musical styles slightly tinted with a sarcastic tone.

A heavy mix of electric guitars and robust vocals begin the first disc with "Skinny Mean Man." "That Is Why" shifts into a showtune style and seems somewhat out of place amid the overall the punk-pop tone of the record.

However the style shifts yet again at "Baby Girl, I'm A Blur," the first single from ***In Defense of The Genre***. Dance beats, slightly distorted guitars and electric keyboards take over for the rest of disc one.

Disc two sounds similar to Say Anything's earlier works, combining simple melodies and multi-layered guitar parts. The track "In Defense of The Genre" signals a return to Say Anything's trademarked sound. The rest of the record follows a similar format.

A slew of guest vocalists appear on ***In Defense of The Genre***, a move which has mixed consequences.

On one hand, singers such as Chris Conley (of Saves The Day), Chris Carrabba (of Dashboard Confessional), and Hayley Williams (of Paramore), have tremendous talent that adds constructively to the record. However, at some points the amount of extra vocals becomes distracting.

Although it is unclear what genre is being defended, ***In Defense of The Genre*** is entertaining both musically and lyrically and is a good listen despite its length (1 ½ hours!) and jumpy musical style.

Say Anything has found a place outside of the indie scene where the influence of pop music is evident in their approach. This may alienate some traditional Say Anything fans but will also appeal to a broader fanbase.

From Baroque to La Bamba

Library Hosts Concerts in the Library Series

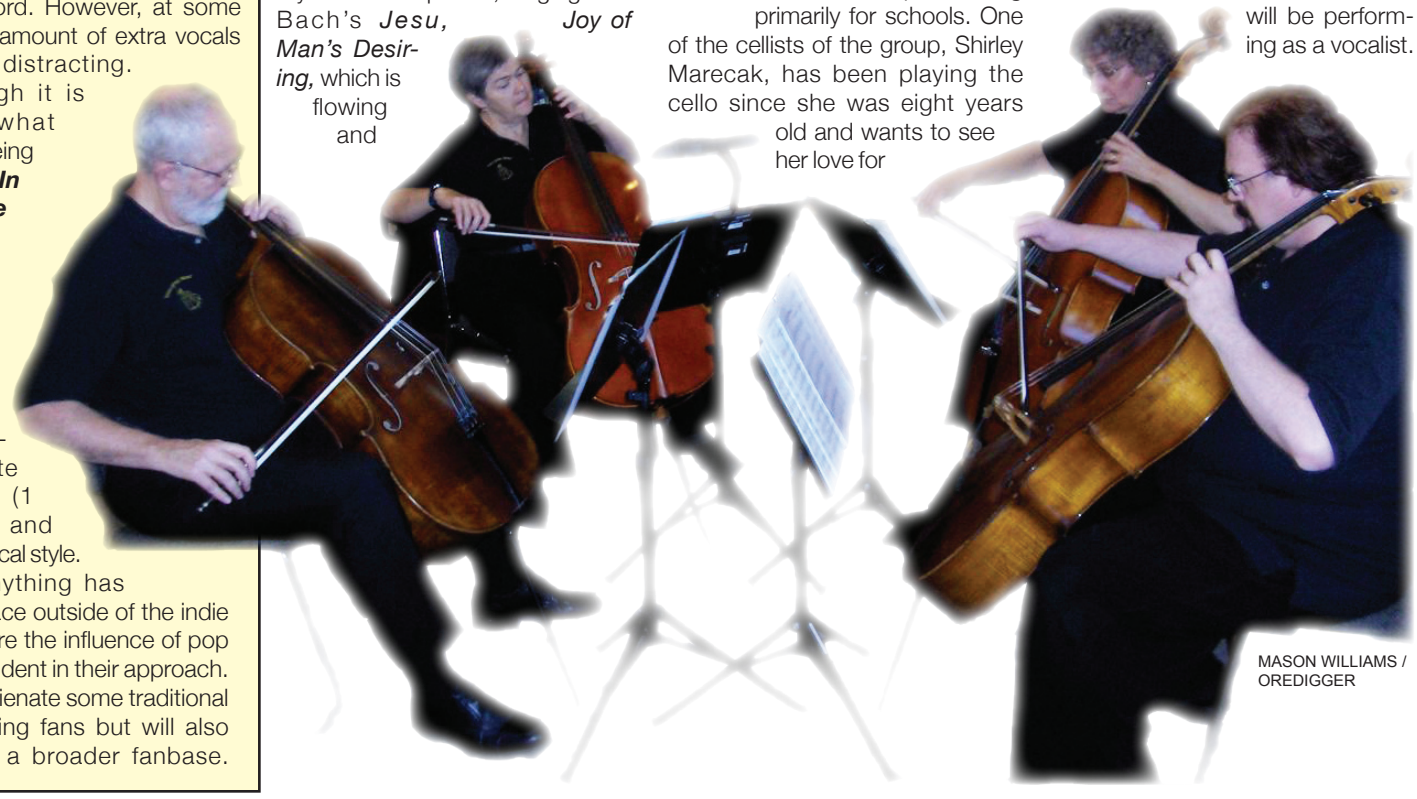
Mason Williams
Staff Writer

If you happened to be in the Arthur Lakes Library at noon on Friday, November 2, you heard the sound of classical music coming from the Boettcher Room. The source of the music was an adult cello quartet from Evergreen, "The Voice of The Wood," performing for an audience of about 30 CSM students and adults.

The group played a wide variety of classical pieces, ranging from Bach's *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring,* which is flowing and peaceful, to Prokofiev's *Humorous Scherzo,* a dark, intense piece. At one point the group did nothing but tap their cellos, creating a rhythm and proving that there are many ways to play a cello. They wrapped up their performance with an arrangement of *La Bamba*, which, in the words of cellist Steven Weidner, is "not an easy song to play."

"The Voice of the Wood" travels around the state, performing primarily for schools. One of the cellists of the group, Shirley Marecak, has been playing the cello since she was eight years old and wants to see her love for classical music shared with future generations. She believes that music education is not very prominent in schools today and that is why "a lot of kids nowadays don't even know what a cello is." Her husband Michael Marecak, also a member of the quartet, said, "If we can convince one child to continue with classical music, what we do is well worth our while."

The Concerts in the Library series will be continuing with another performance on Friday, November 16. Bob Neukirchner will be performing as a vocalist.



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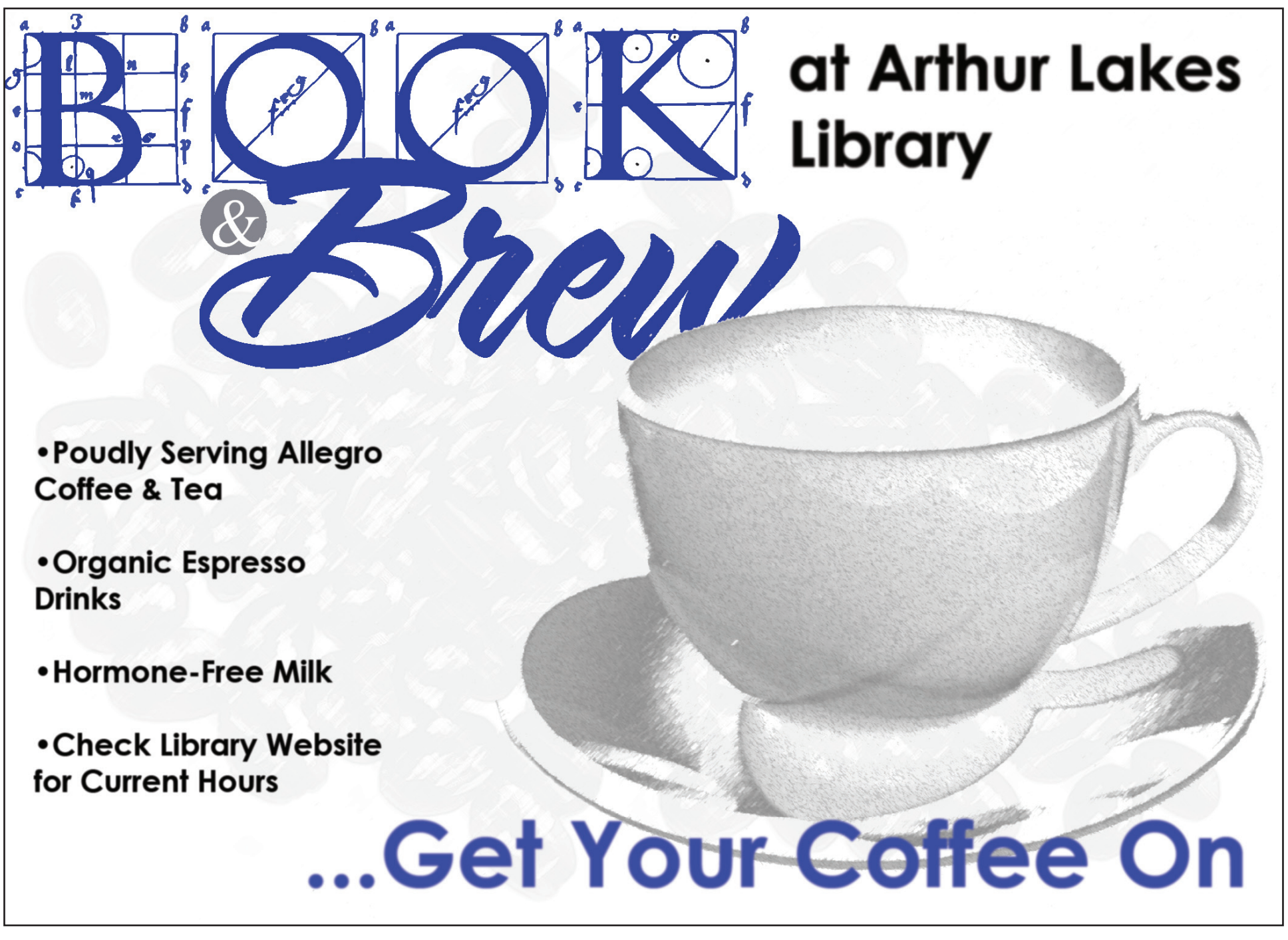


Cycling Goes National

Jake Rezac
Staff Writer

The Mines Cycling Team dominated their competition in the RMAC regular season, more than doubling the point total of their nearest competitor in the National Championship points race. Because of this, they won the right to compete in the NCCA National MTB Championships in North Carolina, which took place October 25-28.

From the beginning of the Championship to the end, Mines further displayed both the dominance and consistency it had shown all year: even though none of Mine's riders placed first in an event, they all performed very well, edging out Warren Wilson College, 636 points to 626, to win the Division II National Title.

The team was represented by twelve riders. Brandon Turman, Nathan Work, Deider Barrick, Devin Rhinehart, Christen Boyer, Melissa Marts, Iris Tomlinson, and Myra Dyer in Downhill and Dual Slalom, Zak Grabowski, Joe Schneider, Topher Hurley, Shaun Higgins, Melissa Marts, Iris Tomlinson, and Myra Dyer participated in Cross Country and Short Track; and Christen Boyer participated in Short Track. All the riders performed admirably in their events, with Turman placing third in Downhill, Barrick placing third in Dual Slalom, Boyer placing third in Downhill and fourth in Dual Slalom, and Dyer placing sixth in Dual Slalom.

Senior Brandon Turman explained how the National Championships were set up: "Cross Country and Short Track are both mass start, endurance events that test the fitness of a rider. These events feature multiple laps around a loop for a specified time period or distance, and riders finish in the order they cross the line. Downhill and Dual Slalom are individual, gravity events that test the technical skills of a rider. These events feature very challenging terrain, and are timed against a clock."

Entering the competition, the team looked to better their National Championship performance of last year, where they entered 19 of 32 events, and took 5th place. "This year we are entering 31 of 32 possible events," Turman said. "Our goal each season is to qualify for and attend the national championship in every discipline. This year's extended goal [was] a top 3 finish at MTB nationals." Because riders at Nationals are "expert or pro level riders, races [are] very competitive," according to Turman. However, because all the riders put forth their best efforts, the team was able to accomplish its goal. "Consistency is key," Turman said about winning.

Apart from the talent and work ethic of the riders, the Sports Council made a big impact on the team's season. "[they were] a huge help in preparing for nationals, providing assistance at every step of the process. We'd like to thank John Howard for making it happen."

With all of the help they received, and all the talent they have, it's no surprise the team won the title.

FEMALE DH QUALIFIERS

2nd Place - Christen Boyer
5th Place - Myra Dyer
10th Place - Melissa Marts
12th Place - Iris Tomlinson

FEMALE XC FINISHES

6th Place - Melissa Marts
8th Place - Iris Tomlinson
20th Place - Myra Dyer

MALE DH QUALIFIERS

1st Place - Brandon Turman
8th Place - Nathan Work
11th Place - Deider Barrick
33rd Place - Devin Rhinehart

MALE XC FINISHES

25th Place - Zak Grabowski
34th Place - Topher Hurley
36th Place - Shaun Higgins
39th Place - Joe Schneider

Athletes of the Week

Melinda Bartel, Staff Writer

Briana Schulze is the freshman goal keeper on the Women's Varsity Soccer Team. She has been in the goal every minute of every game, which is impressive for a freshman.

"She makes a big difference in her determination. The players in front of her have a lot of confidence," Coach Frank Kohlenstein said. He also said that she has done a great job.

Schulze has been playing soccer for the past 13 years. She played for her high school in Littleton before coming to Mines. She said that playing in college has a different atmosphere, and it's much more intense, but that she is really enjoying being on the team and getting away from school. "It's cool being a starter as a freshman," she said.

Schulze has helped lead the Mines soccer team to a 10-7 record. The women's soccer team won their qualifying round and advanced to the RMAC semi-finals after a 3-0 victory against N. M. Highlands University last Wednesday. The game marked Schulze's seventh shutout of the season.

The team lost to CSU-Pueblo during the semi-final game on Nov. 2. The score was 3-1, and Schulze ended the game with 6 saves. Furthermore, she has had a total of 117 saves for the season (as of Thursday). Her team mate, Cass Pangell, said, "In our games and practices she keeps us all going when things get tough."

Schulze has yet to declare her major.

MEAVE HAMM / OREDIGGER

Craig Thompson is a senior forward on the Varsity Men's Soccer Team. He is a team captain this year, and he has, notably, started all four of his years at Mines. "Thompson is one of the best attacking players in the conference, or to ever play for CSM," said Coach Frank Kohlenstein.

This season, he scored three goals in one game against the number four team in the country, including a hat trick. His coach says he's a crucial part of their team because he always scores big goals. "Thompson is one of the dangerous players in the league," he said.

Thompson has been playing soccer since he was five years old. He played on Real Colorado (which is a club league) and for Highlands Ranch High School before coming to Mines. He says one of the highlights of his career was in 2005, when Mines played in the NCAA tournament for the first time and won their first round. He scored a big goal in that game.

On Nov. 2, the men's team defeated Metropolitan State College of Denver with a final score of 3-2. The team advanced to the championship match, which was played Nov. 4.

He said it will be weird when the season is over, because it's been such a big part of his life for so long. "Everyone on the team is so fun. I've made some really good friends," he said. Thompson is working on his degree in Mechanical Engineering and he plans to graduate in December of 2008.

MEAVE HAMM / OREDIGGER

You Can Recycle

Beer, soda, *and* V8 cans
Plastic bottles
Cardboard
Office waste (fliers, magazines, sticky notes, etc…)
Text books
Clothing, furniture, damn-near everything

Cooking oil (bio-diesel)
Bicycles
Car batteries
Old notes
Newsprint
Printer ink cartridges

Do You Recycle?

Curious?

Check out these resources

- EarthWorks www.mines.edu/Stu_life/organ/earth/aboutus.html
- Student Sustainability Council e-mail Akira at arattenb@mines.edu
- Engineers for a Better World http://www.mines.edu/stu_life/organ/ebw/

Winter Wonderland

Welcome to the 2007-2008 Ski Season

Matthew Pusard
Staff Writer

The wondrous weather of fall has started to give way to winter's chilly breezes. While that means that walks across campus will be a little unpleasant, it also means that ski season is almost here. Some mountains, in fact, are already open for the public's enjoyment, but as November rolls on more and more will start to open their gates. Here is a list of some of the more notable mountains to look out for. Next issue will feature Vail, Keystone, Loveland, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge, and Powderhorn.

Winter Park

Pros: Some call Winter Park the Coloradan's ski resort. The green slopes (easy) on the Winter Park side are great for children and beginners while Mary Jane offers more advanced slopes (and more fun slopes such Parsenn Bowl). There is a variety of ways to deal with the hour and a half trip to Winter Park, including the ski train.

Cons: The slopes can get crowded, and therefore icy, during peak hours. The lifts suffer from crowds as well, especially the main lift on the Winter Park side. It is best to try to take a lunch break at a different time from everyone else. It is also steadily growing more expensive to enjoy Winter Park, but a few multiple day deals are out there.

Eldora

Pros: The best part about this mountain is its proximity. It is an hour's drive from Mines and even less from Boulder. It gets 300 inches of snow a year, but if it snows in Golden or Boulder, the powder will be great that day. The terrain park and tree slopes are the runs to check out. RTD also offers bus rides to the mountain.

Cons: It is a small, single mountain resort. The prices may be a little steep with this taken into consideration. The season pass is $479, which is $100 more expensive than a season pass to the much larger Winter Park Resort.

Aspen/ Snowmass

Pros: Aspen is one of the most famous ski resorts in the nation, and as such, it attracts a wide variety of skiers from across the world. It consists of four mountains, each with their own flavor. Snowmass is renowned for its family friendly atmosphere, while Buttermilk plays host to ESPN's Winter X games. It averages 300 inches of powder a season.

Cons: It is an expensive resort with, a single adult ticket coming in at $87. It is also over a three-hour drive from Golden. Because of its fame, overcrowding is an issue on the mountain.

Wolf Creek

Pros: The stat that stands out the most about Wolf Creek is the 465 inches of natural powder the resort receives annually. Their website boasts that this is the most snow in Colorado. The resort also boasts a relatively reasonable $48 single day lift ticket. There are a couple of slopes with no lift, but in exchange for a short hike, skiers can experience a run with nearly pristine snow. Wolf Creek will provide a lot of satisfaction for the experienced skier or snowboarder.

Cons: Located in Pagosa Springs, Wolf Creek amounts to nearly a five-hour drive. It is a resort that requires an entire weekend. The season pass also does not make a lot of sense. It is $689, which requires 15 trips for it to be a worthwhile investment. With the resort being so out of the way, it would not be a wise choice, unlike season passes to most other resorts.

Copper Mountain

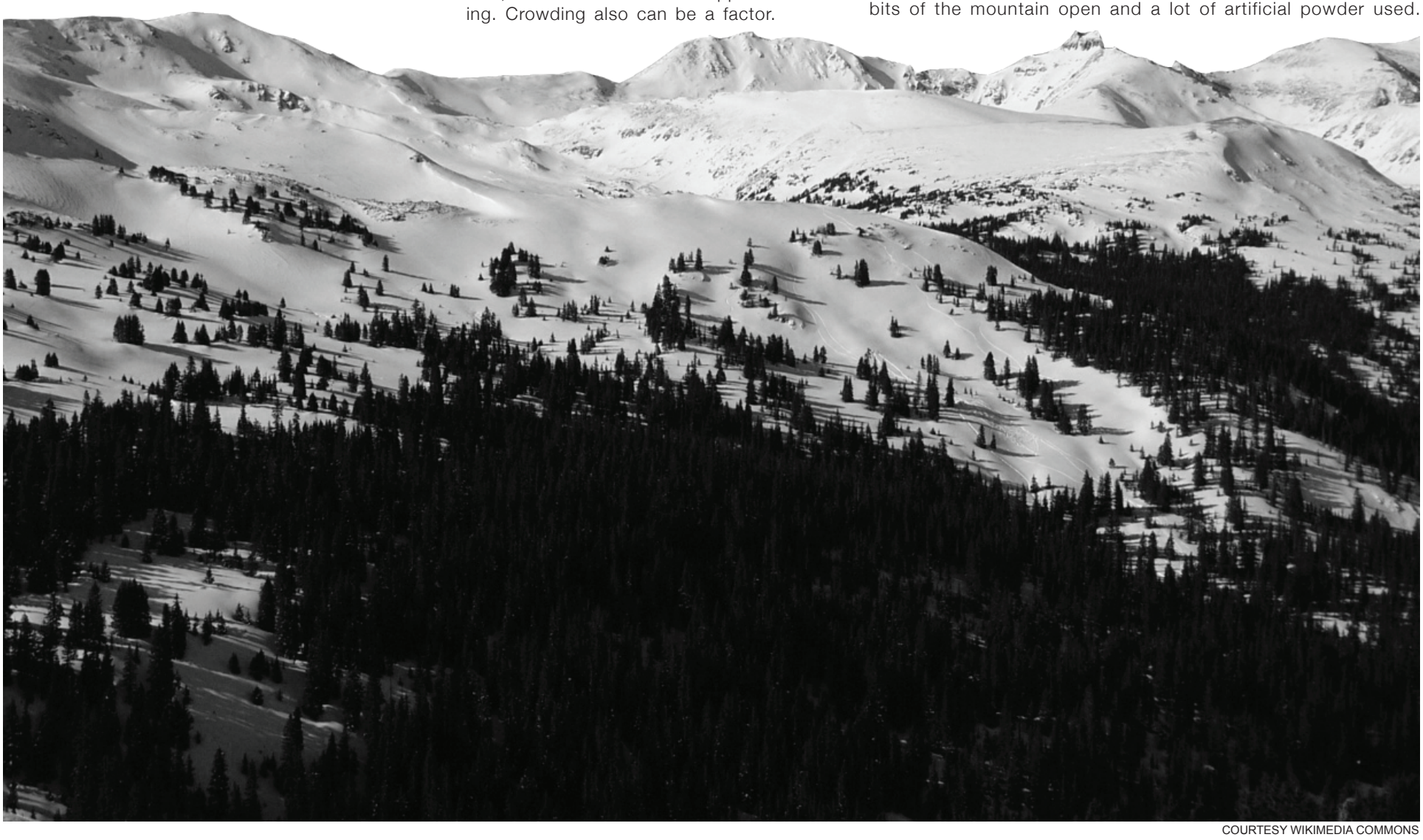
Pros: One of Copper's great advantages is its connections with other resorts. The Rocky Mountain Super Pass allows skiers and snowboarders to access to Copper and Winter Park for just $30 more than a pass to either individual mountain. Copper is also only an hour's drive away from Golden. The back trails are not as crowded and can have untouched snow to be experienced later on in the day.

Cons: Copper Mountain is a hit or miss experience. The days with great ski conditions will be thoroughly enjoyable, but the rest will be disappointing. Crowding also can be a factor.

Arapahoe Basin

Pros: For A-Basin, timing is everything. They pride themselves on being one of the first to open and on staying open the longest. An hour away from Golden, this resort boasts the highest ski-able terrain in North America with a summit at 13,000 feet. The best part may be the 5 Mountain Pass, however. When passes start to go on sale and are severely discounted in the late summer/early fall, the 5 Mountain Pass provides a relatively affordable pass to hit up Arapahoe Basin, Vail, Beaver Creek, Keystone, and Breckenridge for the entire season. A-Basin is right next to Keystone and Breckenridge, adding to the pass's convenience.

Cons: A-Basin is not that big by itself. Early and late season skiing and snowboarding can also be a little sketchy with tiny bits of the mountain open and a lot of artificial powder used.



COURTESY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Rugby Cranks Up

Jake Rezac
Staff Writer

Going into the October 28th game against Regis, the Mines Men's Rugby team was in excellent position to reach the Western Regional Championships, which take place in the spring. Their last league game for the fall, however, ended in a heartbreaking last minute loss, taking them out of the championship running.

"We planned to go to and then hopefully to win the national championship," Junior Kevin Smith, blindside flanker on the team, said. Unfortunately, because of the loss, they will not be able to do this.

The game against Regis, which took place at the neutral site of Greeley, began well for Mines. They scored 10 points in the first 10 minutes, taking a quick 10-0 lead. However, Mines penalties during the rest of the half would allow for Regis to catch up by halftime. Things started looking up again, when the Mines players managed to score another 12 points in the opening minutes of the second half, putting the score at 22-10. With only ten minutes left in the game, Regis needed to score three times for the win. Putting up two scores in the next nine minutes – one aided by a disputed call by a referee – the Regis players tied the game, with one minute to go. Regis got the ball back, and managed to pull off one more score, as time expired, to win the game 29-22.

Despite the loss, the team will continue to play league matches in the spring. As such, they won't be taking a break any time soon. "We plan to continue practicing and we will most likely schedule friendly matches with local men's clubs," said Smith, "there is a lot we can learn from playing a club with more experience and it helps keep our skills sharp."

Even though the loss to Regis puts off one of the team's goals of going to the National Championships, the season has still been a very good one. Before the Regis game, the team had climbed to number 4 in the Division II rankings and was thought by many to have a chance at the championship. None of this success would have been possible without each member of the team doing their part. "The best part of the season so far is watching all of our rookies rise to the occasion and make up a large part of our starting side. Many of the rookies have…inspired some of the veterans," said Smith. Coach Anthony Ford has also been a big part of the success of the season. "He pours his heart into the game of rugby and has given so much to the team in the way of his time, both at practice and travel with the team, and in the fact that he isn't paid."

With such successes and good team-camaraderie, the season has still been a big success, with many of the players looking forward to their chance at the national title again next year.

Editorials Policy

The Oredigger is a designated public forum. Editors have the authority to make all content decisions without censorship or advance approval and may edit submitted pieces for length so long as the original meaning of the piece is unchanged. Opinions contained within the Opinion Section do not necessarily reflect those of Colorado School of Mines or The Oredigger. The Oredigger does not accept submissions without identification and will consider all requests for anonymity in publication on a case-by-case basis. Submissions less than 300 words will receive preference.

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Debate is Not the Enemy

Andrew Aschenbrenner
Opinion Editor

Perhaps it makes politicians, pundits, and reactionaries feel more secure to declare debate on a certain issue over. Despite all the blustering, they are wrong. Especially when involving science, debate is never over, and to say so is to invalidate your position.

This country has long known fools like Al Gore and Bill O'Reilly to call off discussion, saying debate is over. Do these men have something to hide, or are they just afraid of what the truth might be? Strong men are never afraid of the truth, and unfortunately there are precious few of those.

It is notable that those who show themselves to be strong men are consistently hailed as great leaders, and those who don't, while they may be revered by some, are ultimately failures. History doesn't lie. One simply cannot shape truth because they want to. There is only one set of facts.

If we let ourselves get trapped in the spin, automatically accepting that one person's facts are true, we are blind to the debate. It is easy to be robbed of the truth if you don't seek it out. More importantly, you can be easily manipulated if you only open yourself to limited information.

The United States have come a long way since 1776. We are no longer a baby country. Our government has been playing the media game for two centuries or so, and its politicians know everything there is to know about spin.

The media, however, has evolved, from print to radio to television to internet. But the media has interests too, and no matter how unbiased you attempt and/or claim to be, opinions show through. The 24-hour news cycle has made it impossible to be impartial. If you watch CNN, MSNBC, Fox News Channel, or any similar programming, your opinions have been shaped by the way these channels represent the news.

They run programming based on what people want to see. Long documentaries on topics such as prisoner's rights, global warming, the War on Terror, and racism fill the empty spots in the news day. Every topic, every show, every issue has a slant, even if they are unintended. Sorry, Mr. O'Reilly, there is no such thing as the no-spin-zone. Sean Hannity and Alan Colmes make a mockery of their positions nightly on Fox News' ***Hannity and Colmes***. MSNBC's Keith Olbermann fires leading questions at his guests in a left-leaning version of Glenn Beck's show on CNN.

Unfortunately, the bias doesn't stop there. Media owners like Rupert Murdoch, Gannett Co., Clear Channel, and the Sulzberger family's The New York Times Company shape the news in print, on radio, and online. So what's a private citizen to do?

The Founding Fathers knew how important freedom of the press was to ensuring democracy. The press is still free of outside influence on what to publish. But what about the inside influence? It's always there, so the only thing to do is use common sense and get as much information from as many sources as you can. Our job as citizens and voters has gone from observers to investigators. And hey, that's not all that bad, as long as you don't get caught napping.

I understand the urgency of issues. I realize why certain persons might be more than willing to cut debate short, to make their job easier, to make those who listen twist in the wind. This doesn't change the fact that the debate is never over. There will always be new and changing forms of evidence, and an element of arguments will always be subjective. Sit back, relax, and keep debating. You might find out something new.

Space Matters

Akira Rattenbury
Guest Columnist

Today, the world looks to the Apollo program, which last placed man on the moon in 1972, as the height of man's supremacy in space. More than 30 years later, numerous landmark scientific satellites and space stations have been undertaken, but money, and seemingly a lack of necessity, have kept us from returning man to the moon or making it to Mars.

Apollo succeeded because we needed to beat the Soviets. Once accomplished, other political considerations and a largely ambivalent public marginalized manned space flight into obscurity. The public only examines our role in space when something blows up, pilots enter love triangles, or something else goes wrong. Why? Today's society latches onto celebrity gossip, cover-ups, and police blotter as significant news. Stories about scientific or engineering triumphs hardly enter the mind of the average Joe.

> "Regardless of skeptical scientists who cite the technical and psychological difficulties of prolonged space travel, ...man must return to space exploration."

The time of uniting to achieve the impossible may have past. The purity of achieving the extraordinary may not have been the driving factor of Apollo, but it was a launch pad for many imaginations to explore strange worlds, and possibly discover new life.

The moon must be colonized. NASA's goal for another manned mission by 2020 should be praised as a necessary step for humanity. A permanent base on the moon provides a much needed access point further into space. The potential for unknown breakthroughs would not be limited by time but rather our imaginations.

Regardless of skeptical scientists who cite the technical and psychological difficulties of prolonged space travel, or the fact that manned missions run roughly 100 times as expensive as robotic missions, man ***must*** return to space exploration. As a child weened off Star Trek and Arthur C. Clarke, it only seems logical that man, not robots, should explore the depths of space. The magnitude of overcoming the many hurdles to make a man, someone not unlike ourselves, step foot on a foreign planet is immense. The gee whiz factor of many "feats" today would pale in comparison to the magnitude of man setting foot on the virgin soils of Mars or a frozen moon of Saturn.

Man is destined to continue exploring for the same reasons people still gear up to ascend Everest or attempt other feats which stretch the limits of what is considered possible. People try difficult tasks just to see if they can succeed. Great explorers and inventors such as Magellan, Columbus, Edison, or the Wright brothers are heroes who succeeded where others failed or doubted the possibility.

The Challenger explosion and the more recent shuttle disaster prove that humans make mistakes. These disasters, along with several from earlier programs, simply reiterate the important fact that spaceflight is dangerous and many factors must be considered. Such failures should not discourage future goals of manned spaceflight, but simply push scientists and engineers to build success upon failure and never quit. To endeavor at less than the full potential of mankind is a waste of brainpower. The only true disaster is never trying.

What's Your Beef With Mines?

Casey Morse
ASCSM President

Beef:
Public Safety in general
Response:
Law enforcement will almost always instill negative sentiments on a college campus, but complaints about Public Safety will hopefully soon diminish. The school recently hired a new Director of Public Safety, Keith Turney. With over 20 years experience as a Public Safety Officer at CSU, Chief Turney has worked extensively with students to create cooperative programs between the officers and the students. We are excited for him to bring a better sense of community policing to the Mines campus. ASCSM is working out the details for creating a student panel to work with Public Safety as well, which should help students to better understand their operations and help Public Safety better understand students' concerns.

Beef:
Why do we hire professors who are hard to understand?
Response:
The school has done research to show that this will help encourage a more diverse campus. In addition to hiring more culturally diverse professors, the school is also using similar techniques to help attract more females to attend Mines.

Beef:
Not paying Grad Students' tuition
Response:
Unfortunately, the state of Colorado is quite resource-limited when it comes to funding higher education. There are several movements going on in the Capitol right now to address that, including a proposal from the Governor for $60 million more towards higher education and a proposal to use Severance Taxes for higher education. Since the implementation of TABOR, these decisions are now left up to the Colorado voters.

Beef:
Why don't we have a Recycling Program on campus?
Response:
We do have a recycling program, but it's not publicized as well as it could be. There is recycling in every building on campus. The Environmental Health and Safety Department comes through to pick it up and take it to the respective recycling centers. They are currently working on different ways to publicize their recycling program more effectively so students are more encouraged to recycle.

Beef:
Why did the M start flashing recently?
Response:
According to Blue Key, they are reconfiguring the electric systems up there and replacing many of the bulbs. This is not a stylistic thing, so don't worry about it being continuous.

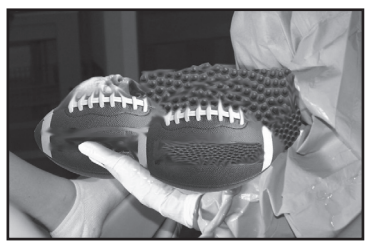
Beef:
Aramark.
Response:
While you may not enjoy some of the meals prepared by Aramark, they do offer every means necessary for students to voice their comments and concerns. Every semester they send out a survey to the student body, and there are comment boxes in every one of the dining facilities. The school has developed a close relationship with Aramark over the years, and I'm sure they are accepting of students' input. I would encourage you to give detailed suggestions and feedback whenever you can if you have specific complaints. Also, I will do my best to have the director of the Aramark services come to our next ASCSM Senate meeting on November 29 at 7:00 in the Ballrooms for a Q&A forum with students. Please come and hear what he has to say.

Fool's Gold

"That's Hot"

Inside this issue:

Local 10 year old holds up candy store with candy gun.
SEE "GUMDROPS" PG 18



Tom Brady knocks up another supermodel.
SEE "BRADY BUNCH" PG 34

Man discovers Virgin Mary imprint on his foot.
SEE "MARIA FUNGUS" PG 22

Drug Dealer in Mines Park

Easy, Cheap, Delicious

Greg Smith
Insider and Test Patient

Mines Park will have at least one thing to be thankful for this Thanksgiving. That's right, narcotic fans, a brand new dealer! For a limited time only, building 2021 will be hosting drug tasting sessions as well as the usual pickup services. In November only, potential buyers can sample one or more of the new product lines for $50 ranging from: Bricks, Buds, Alley Juice, Bennies, Black Hollies, Dexies, Hogs, Hearts, Heaven, Hash, Kif, Junk, Jive, PCP, LSD, Rainbows, Red Devils, Scat, School Boys, and a complete range of Pepsi products.

To connect with the dealer, knock 3 times rapidly on unit 229's door, scream the word bondangle and do some push-ups. A service representative will quickly meet you at the door and invite you to take your shoes off. You will immediately be served the finest of imitation orange juice and given one free bar of soap. From there, you can talk with the customer service representative assigned to you, and have a great night. Good night, and good luck.

Update – the shop will be closed Friday at midnight for about an hour. They apologize for the inconvenience.

COURTESY WIKIMEDIA

Jane: A smoker recently died from the effects of marijuana she never exhaled.

Campus Drug-Ring Sting

Campus Cops Flex Their Secret

Greg Smith
Informant

Public Safety announced its upcoming classified drug bust this past weekend at a press conference.

"We believe that building 2021 in Mines Park has been trafficking narcotics to the students in the area," says Mines Chief of Police Vin Comptent. "We have been gathering intel from spies in the perpetrator's organization, and it seems that the mastermind behind all this is an RA. She goes by the alias of Sydney."

The Sting is planned for this coming Friday, Nov. 9th at midnight. Public Safety has chosen to keep their staging area secret as not to tip off the 'bad guys.' (That's the official term.)

> "The Sting is planned for this coming Friday, Nov. 9th at midnight. Public Safety has chosen to keep their staging area secret as not to tip off the 'bad guys.'"

Vin gave me a quick run-down of the operation: "Once we have the go-ahead from our inside man, we will execute a full breach on the front entry way, gas and flash the room and perform a 'point guard' tactical entry with three, two-man fire-teams. This will all take place at Midnight. They'll have no idea what hit them." If the plan works, the perpetrators will all receive two days of homework.

> "This will all take place at Midnight. They'll have no idea what hit them."

As to whether this is connected to the recent Weaver, Bradford and Guggenheim child smuggling triad, Public Safety would not comment.

Want to write for Fool's Gold? Submit your original works to mstone@mines.edu and your article could end up in my trash folder!

Fool's Gold Top Ten

7 3 1 8 4 9 2 6 5 10

Reasons why: _____

10)
9)
8)
7)
6)
5)
4)
3)
2)
1) Mike Stone could not submit his article due to the W.G.A. Strike

Writer's Strike: Pencils Down

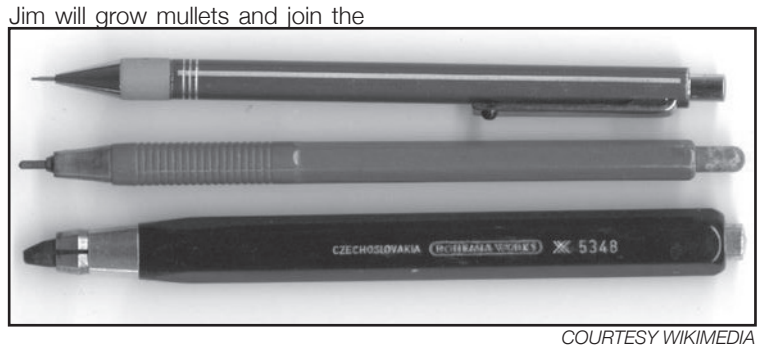
Tim Weilert
Writer

As of this morning, the Writer's Guild of America has gone on strike over a controversy concerning royalties. Officials with the W.G.A. decided a walkout was the only option that would cause the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television to take their demands seriously. Writers are demanding compensation for the distribution of their material in "new media" such as Internet streams and downloads. Analysts expect the strike will most harm late night comedy shows and soap operas. If the strike were to continue for more than a month, television series, movies, game shows and reality shows would feel the pinch. In addition to hurting television and movie ratings, the writer's strike will cause the loss of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars.

As a way to cut losses, the A.M.P.T. has resorted to hiring "scab" writers. These writers will help the industry continue while negotiations occur. A majority of the stand-ins are employees of a private firm owned by Mel Gibson. The content of the material being produced will not change drastically. Children's shows, such as "Sesame Street'" will now be set in Scotland, all characters will wield swords and kilts, and will be involved in gratuitous battles. The setting for the popular television series "The Office" will be moved from Scranton, PA, to Los Angeles, CA. Dwight and Jim will grow mullets and join the L.A.P.D. The two will become partners, solve crimes, shoot everything up and still find time to make jokes about the situation. What seems to be the most upsetting is the series "Lost," where one of the characters will be crucified as more mysteries concerning the island are revealed.

> "Writers are demanding compensation for the distribution of their material in 'new media' such as Internet streams and downloads."

Obviously the Writer's Guild's strike will cause some slight ripples in the entertainment industry. Some writers are now quitting their jobs and moving to Hollywood to snatch up their one shot for fame. The Fool's Gold Editor, Mike Stone, is among those that simply "up and left" for the big city lights. Despite all this, the new media coming from Hollywood may top previous attempts, as new writing blood is brought in to the industry.



COURTESY WIKIMEDIA

Pens: Some pens that wrote classic one-liners and situational drama now lie unused on desks across Hollywood.

"Mines" Copyrighted

Seagulls from *Finding Nemo* Outraged

Mike Stone
[Put Funny Position Here]

The Colorado School of Mines has officially copyrighted the word "Mines." This comes as a shock to the entire community of Mines, Nebraska.

"I'm not allowed to say my hometown's name anymore and it hurts. If I want to yell out at the local High School football game, I have to say, 'GO!' as opposed to 'GO MINES!' Aw, I just said it: that's another five cents," commented John Burger.

The town has been picketing on the Mines campus with signs saying, "_____ is my town and _____ is my soul!" Students are simply walking right by the protestors unaware of the fierce battle that has touched so many lives and yet hasn't touched a single student here.

Meetings with the school board proved unsuccessful last month. A representative of President Scoggins commented on Mines, Nebraska saying, "The town was founded in 1899 and this school was founded in 1874. We beat them."

Roger Mines responded to the comment noting, "'Mines' has been a family name for three hundred years before my great, great grandfather founded Mines, Nebraska. We beat THEM!" The hysterical Roger Mines continued, "If they don't un-copyright their copyright, we're going to copyright "copyright" and show them who's right! You copy?!?" He then shook his fists in the air and fell over due to being a diabetic.

What students might have also noticed impeding campus life were the coal miners from Pennsylvania that took the week off work to dig holes around campus. The stunt was an apparent attack on the "Mines" copyright and an attack on Kentucky blue grass all over campus. The Miners came and went in the middle of the night, making them hard to catch, given everyone knows cops don't work at night. Mines, Mines, Mines. There- I just wrote Mines 15 times, so your $.75 is on the way!

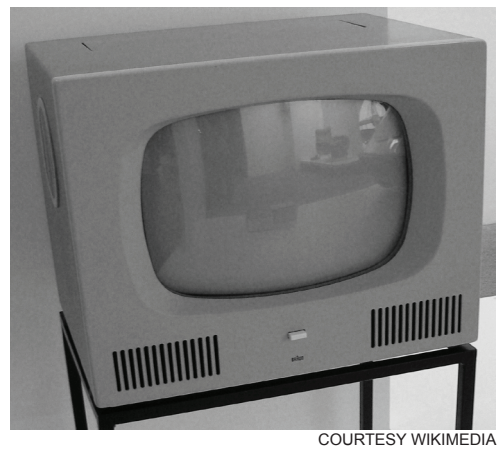
COURTESY CSM

CSM Emblem: The copyright was more strict than expected.

Fool's Gold YouTube Video *of the Week*

"Texas Longhorns Crank Dat Soulja Boy @ UCF"

-Mike Stone


COURTESY WIKIMEDIA

COURTESY WIKIMEDIA

Puppy Massacre- They just thought Lucky was quiet.

What Makes a Great Teacher?

Professors Beware: This Article Contains Jelly Beans

Mike Stone
Student Extraordinare

Is it the subject? Is it school? Is it the rigorous pushups before class to get in "the mode"? How can a student get a great teacher? How can a teacher become a GREAT teacher? These questions answered and more, plus Andy Rooney in the following article.

I was recently asked, "Who's a good professor for Circuits?" I replied, "Get out of my house and get some clothes on, you weirdo." But it got me thinking. If you break it down, how can you guarantee you get a good teacher? If a professor somehow "speaks" to one student, it doesn't mean they'll "speak" to another student or even their family at cousin Ned's wedding. There needs to be a process that a teacher can go through to become that great teacher.

"I remember the first time I wet my pants when she didn't see my raised hand to go to the restroom."

In my metaphorical journey and three beers later, I came up with a list of 10 teachers that have "spoken" to me since school began for a toddler of 13. (I was held back a few times.) Highlights include my first grade teacher and still family friend, Mrs. Valacenti. I remember the first time I wet my pants when she didn't see my raised hand to go to the restroom. More recently, I've had a few teachers at Mines that "speak" to me everyday in class.

I had Heather Barker last year for Differential Equations. She was a great teacher. I didn't particularly like the subject, but she made me care by two accounts. 1) She told the class anecdotal stories about her time as a student at Mines. 2) She talked TO us as opposed to AT us. I thank you for your great teaching abilities.

I currently have Dr. Ogg for Biology II. He's a great teacher for three reasons. 1) He shows YouTube videos in class. 2) He talks TO us as opposed to AT us. 3) He's passionate about the subject and knows a lot of anecdotal facts. I thank you for your great teaching abilities and in no way should this get me an A+.

"I could learn the material in a way that made sense for the original chemists."

My last star athlete of teaching was Professor Pavelich for Chemistry I, who is now retired. His greatest feat was when you watched him teach, you could see him thinking. To me, it meant that I could learn the material in a way that made sense for the original chemists. The thought process was always there.

Wrapping these three teachers together and putting them on a pedestal, there are a few central themes and a pedestal issue:

A teacher must be a peer of his students, not a superior. You don't have to be buddy-buddy and drink beers together on the weekend, but you are invited! Get to know the class on a personal level. It helps me and maybe it will help you.

A teacher must supply facts, not only on the material, but also for broad and unrelated subjects. Quite frankly, it puts butts in the seats. It also gives the student an intellectual break and helps with the peer notion. Anecdotal equals awesome.

You must present the material in a manner that makes me think, as opposed to worrying about the test. Otherwise, I shut down, take a nap and pray for natural lighting.

So, you young and budding professors with barely a year of tenure, take notes from a guy that cares the most. HA! Now you're taking notes! Finally!

Just care enough to care and think of how a student sees your class. Then you can improve and become a (echo voice) GREAT TEACHER!

PETA Joins al-Qaeda

Mike Stone
Foreign Analyst

In a video released on Al Jezeera, Pamela Anderson proclaimed that PETA would join forces with Al Qaeda to fight the infidels. Anderson appeared in a head to toe burkha and decapitated an American Rooster. She then began a thirty-minute speech with, "You Americans are so silly."

The surprise move came after Libyan Terrorists, "Fighting Islamic Group," joined with Al Queda since they have such good parties on the weekends. The newly formed coalition of the willing calls themselves "Fighting Existential Terrorist Association for Proselytizing Infidels and Gnomes," or "FETAPIG," for short. The interesting acronym also reminds farmers to feed their pigs.

Anderson made threats in the video claiming, "We will slaughter one American chicken every hour until KFC stops treating chickens like a piece of meat. We ARE serious." The lack of chicken in Iraq has made the threat drop short.

There will be more to follow as the story develops. Back to you, John.

House Director for Pi Beta Phi Sorority at the Colorado School of Mines
for the 2008-2009 School Year

Full school year commitment is necessary. Must be a senior or a Graduate Student. Compensation includes a stipend to cover half of the room and board each semester. The house is located on campus and is conveniently located near downtown Golden, Colorado.

House Director Duties:
- Advising the HC board on matters concerning the condition of the house and furnishings and the need for repair and replacement.
- Assisting in preparations for opening and closing the house.
- Keeping inventory lists current.
- Maintaining a list of repairmen and service companies approved by the Board to be called in case of emergency or as agreed upon by the House Director and the Board.

Please contact Kelly Gaudet at (303) 221-2213 or by e-mail at KGAUDET2231@msn.com

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Come see our Great 2-year Anniversary Rewards for Mines Students and Alumni!
Buy 1 Entrée, get a 2nd 50% off
Get 20% off any Single Entrée
****PARTIES OF 3 OR MORE MAY COMBINE THESE SPECIALS****
(Dine-In and Carry-Out Only, Students must show Student ID)

How does this affect your price? For example:
Sesame Chicken (Lunch) is $5.95 Menu, ***$4.76 with 20% OFF***
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An $8.55 Entrée and a $7.55 Entrée will cost $16.10 Menu, ***$12.33 with Mines Discount***

We gladly accept **ALL Mines **PURCHASE ORDERS** and **FIELD PURCHASE ORDERS****
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Phone: (303) 278-0060, (303) 278-0072

GET OUT AND PLAY!

IM Sports News

Swim Meet

Deadline Thursday 15 November 5 PM
Tournament Sunday 18 November 2 PM

Dodgeball

Deadline Thursday 15 November 5 PM
Tournament Monday 19 September 7 PM

All Forms are available at the Student Recreation Center - please turn in completed forms to the SRC front desk

You must show your Blaster Card before each intramural event / game

Club Sports News

Cycling Club News

Congratulations to the Cycling Team for their NCAA National Championship!

Men's Rugby News

#4-Ranked Men's Rugby lost a heartbreaker last weekend to end the season

Ice Hockey News

Hockey SWEPT their weekend series against Mesa State 11-1 & 11-4

WWW.CSMRECSPORTS.COM